

Message Text

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SUBJ: WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION- RIYADH WRAP-UP

1. EXCELLENT COORDINATION HELPED THE WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION CONCLUDE A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO RIYADH. THE VISIT ALSO REVEALED A HIGH LEVEL OF SAG INTEREST IN HAVING SECREATRY KREPS VISIT THE KINGDOM IN JANUARY 1979, AS WELL AS IN A REVERSE SAUDI TRADE MISSION TO THE U.S.

2. THE MISSION ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE IN RIYADH THE EVENING OF JUNE 4, AND WAS MET BY CONTROL OFFICER RYAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE USLO STAFF.

3. MONDAY, JUNE 5, BEGAN WITH A WELCOME FROM USLO PRINCIPAL OFFICER GNEHM AND A BRIEFING ON THE PROGRAM. THE DAY CONCENTRATED ON GROUP APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR SAG OFFICIALS AND INCLUDED MEETINGS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WITH THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS AND THE
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DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES AT THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND A MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING.

4. GROUP MEETINGS WERE ALSO HELD WITH THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE AGWAT TEAM OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, KING FAISAL HOSPITAL, THE SAUDI BASIC INDUSTRIES CORP. AND THE SAUDI INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

5. PRINCIPAL OFFICER GNEHM'S RECEPTION DREW OVER 75 IMPORTANT LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, A SURPRISINGLY LARGE TURNOUT THAT WAS MORE THAN TWICE THE ATTENDEES FOR THE JANUARY 1977 WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION. THE RECEPTION RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF KEY APPOINTMENTS FOR MISSION MEMBERS.

6. JUNE 6 WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS FOR EACH MEMBERS. THE HIGH LEVEL OF OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE INTEREST IN THE MISSION WAS REFLECTED IN A TOTAL OF 145 APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING 37 GROUP AND SINGLE APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR SAG OFFICIALS.

7. JUNE 7 CONCENTRATED ON A FIELD TRIP TO AL KHARAJ FOR INTERESTED MISSION MEMBERS, WHILE OTHER MEMBERS HAD A HEAVY INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULE. THE FIELD TRIP WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA'S ONLY CENTER PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEM, AND A MAJOR DAIRY AND MILK PROCESSING INSTALLATION. A TRADITIONAL LUNCH IN HONOR OF THE MISSION FOLLOWED, HOSTED BY ONE OF THE KINGDOM'S LEADING BUSINESSMEN, SHEIKH ABDULLA ALRAJEHI.

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8. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING SCHEDULE, MISSION DIRECTOR PLANAGAN, ACCOMPANIED BY USLO OFFICERS, CALLED ON MINISTER OF COMMERCE SOLAIM AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SALEH TOAIMI. MINISTER SOLAIM TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING HIS EXTENSION OF AN INVITATION TO SECRETARY KREPS TO VISIT THE KINGDOM IN JANUARY 1979. HE INDICATED THE INVITATION HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN JIDDA, FOR FORWARDING TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, AND HOPED THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT. MINISTER SOLAIM ALSO SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF A REVERSE TRADE MISSION. AND SEVERAL POTENTIAL THEMES WERE REVIEWED.

9. THE MEETING AT THE RIYADH CHAMBER ALSO FOCUSED ON THE REVERSE TRADE MISSION CONCEPT. IN GENERAL, THE SAUDI FEELING IS TO HOLD THE MISSION TO A MANAGEABLE SIZE OF PERHAPS A DOZEN, INCLUDING SEVERAL SAG REPRESENTATIVES. INTEREST WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN TARGETING THE MISSION TO CITIES SUCH AS PITTSBURGH

AND PHOENIX WHERE IT WAS FELT THE MISSION WOULD HAVE
A GREATER LOCAL IMPACT.

10. MISSION SALES RESULTS AND SAUDI ARABIA WRAP-UP
FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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